

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

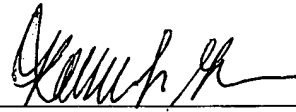
The Examiner has objected to claim 7 as having an alleged informality on line 2 relating to the recitation of term "the echo cancellers". In response, the undersigned has revised this claim to remedy the informality the cited therein. Withdrawal of this objection is hereby requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tamura (U.S. Pat. No. 4,126,770). The Examiner has cited Tamura for allegedly teaching a method of echo reduction by rapidly correcting impulse response to eliminate residual echo at the start of transmission for a certain amount of time and then slow correction for duration of time.

In response to the above referenced rejection, the applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 4-5 and 7 if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, in order to more fully describe the present invention, the Examiner will notice that dependent claim 4 has now been cancelled and inserted into newly amended independent claim, so as to better define the ability to of the invention enable a discreet, timed phase of attenuation of signals substantially prior to echo cancellation introduction by echo cancellers. Because this revision incorporates the verbiage from claim 4, and because of the support found on paragraph 5 of page 1 and elsewhere in the specification, no new matter has been added. To this end, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, as well as a Notice of Allowance, are hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues that may be best resolved by telephone communication, he is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 21, 2006

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